

R E M A R K S**I. Status of Application**

Claims 1-15, 17-26, 28-30, 32, 33, and 37-61 are pending. Claims 1, 7, 12, 22, 26, 37-39, 42, and 56 are amended. Claim 16 is cancelled without prejudice. Claims 57-62 are new.

Claim 7 is amended to broaden the claim. Claims 17 and 18, which were dependent on claim 16, are amended to change dependencies in light of the cancellation of claim 16. Claim 38 is amended to provide a missing word. Claim 39 is amended to correct dependency. Claim 41 is amended to improve readability. Claim 42 is amended to correct typographical errors. None of these amendments are being made in response to a claim rejection. The amendments to the remaining claims are discussed below.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, first paragraph

Claim 56 has been rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph because the terms “a lower ferromagnetic plate” and “a third wall” allegedly lack support from the specification and were considered by the Examiner as new matter. Applicants have amended claim 56 by deleting the terms. In addition, claim 56 has been amended to recite that the ceiling is defined at least in part by “an upper ferromagnetic pole support”; to recite a “lower ferromagnetic pole support” that defines, at least in part, a floor of the room; and to recite that “first and second opposing plates define opposing walls connected between the ceiling and floor. Support for these amendments may be found on page 7, lines 10-16, page 8, lines 5-7, and original claims 1 and 7, for example.

It is also noted that an example of the previously claimed “third wall” is the back wall described on page 8, lines 10-11 and page 9, lines 3-5 of the specification.

It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 56 and the claims dependent upon it meet the requirements of 35 USC § 112, first paragraph.

As described in the prior Amendment, the combination of the limitations of claim 56 are not shown as suggested in the cited references.

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claim are respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

A. Rejections over Kormos in view of August

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-11, 14-18, 20, 25-36, 38-47, 49-52, 54, and 55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,198,285 (“Kormos”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,503,188 (“August ‘188”).

1. Independent Claim 1 and the Claims Dependent Upon It

Independent claim 1 defines a room for use in conducting medical procedures, comprising, in part, a magnetic resonance imaging assembly and a screen disposed, at least in part, within the magnetic resonance imaging assembly. (Emphasis added). The magnetic resonance imaging assembly comprises “first and second opposed ferromagnetic elements,” which in the example of Fig. 1A are the vertical plates 6, “first and second ferromagnetic pole supports connected to the first and second ferromagnetic elements,” which in the example of Figs. 1A and 1B are the horizontal plates 16 and 20, and “first and second poles supported by the first and second pole supports,” which in the example of Figs. 1A and 1B are identified by numeral 12 and 14.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has ignored the requirement that the screen be disposed, at least in part, within the magnetic resonance imaging assembly. To further emphasize this limitation, claim 1 has been amended to require that the screen be disposed, at least in part, “within a volume defined by the magnetic resonance imaging assembly.” The volume may be a room wherein the ceiling is defined, at least in part, by the first pole support, the floor is defined, at least in part, by the second pole support, and opposing walls of the room

are defined, at least in part, by the first and second opposed ferromagnetic elements, as recited in claim 7, for example. The volume may define a portion of a room, as well.

In Kormos, in contrast, the display/control terminal 24 is connected to an external surface of the MRI scanning system 12 by an arm 28. As shown in Fig. 2, the display/control terminal 24 is adjacent to the imaging volume and is outside of the MRI scanning system, not within the scanning system, as claimed.

It is believed that it would be impossible to position the display/control terminal 24 within the MRI scanning system 12 of Kormos because in Kormos' configuration, being "within" the MRI assembly would require that the display/control terminal 24 be within the imaging volume. The imaging volume in Kormos is too small to accomodate the display/control terminal 24 and if within the imaging volume, the display/control terminal 24 would not be convenient for use by a physician or operator of the MRI system. There is, therefore, no teaching or suggestion in Kormos to position a screen with images at least partially within an MRI assembly, as claimed, nor is it possible.

August does not provide such a teaching or suggestion, either, in part because since it would be also be impossible to position the August's screen in the imaging volume of Kormos.

Claim 1 and the claims dependent upon it would not, therefore, have been obvious in light of Kormos and August. The dependent claims contain allowable subject matter, as well.

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

2. The Remaining Claims

It is respectfully submitted that the rejections of dependent claims 14-18, 20, 25-36, 38-47, 49-52, 54, and 55 are incomplete because the base claims are rejected under different combinations of references than the dependent claims. For example, claims 14-18, and 20 are

dependent on independent claim 12, which has been rejected in light of Kormos, August, and U.S. Patent No. 5,493,802 (“Simson”). Since the dependent claims contain all the limitations of the independent claim, claims 14-18, 20, and 25-36, which are dependent on claim 22, should also be rejected at least in light of Kormos, August, and Simson. The same is true for the other dependent claims. The rejections of the independent claims are discussed below.

Withdrawal or clarification of the rejections of claims 14-18, 20, 25-36, 38-47, 49-52, 54, and 55 are respectfully requested.

B. Rejections over Kormos in view of August ‘188 and Simson

Claims 3, 12, 22-24, and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kormos in view of August ‘188 and U.S. Patent No. 5,493,802 (“Simson”). Claims 3 and 12 have been cancelled.

1. Claim 3

Claim 3 is dependent on claim 1 and is allowable because claim 1 is allowable, as discussed above. Claim 3 contains allowable subject matter, as well.

2. Independent Claim 12 and the Claims Dependent Upon It

Independent claim 12 defines a room for use in conducting medical procedures comprising, in part, a screen and means for moving the screen across the room. Claim 12 has been amended to further require “a track extending across at least a portion of the room, the track defining a groove extending across at least a portion of the length of the track, to receive a portion of the screen” and that the means for moving moves “the portion of the screen through the groove of the track, to move the screen across the room to display a selected one of the plurality of images. New claim 60, which is dependent on claim 12, recites that the track defines a second groove and that the means for moving moves the screen through the track in a first

direction and the means for moving moves the screen through the second groove in a second direction different from the first direction.

A track with a groove receiving a portion of the screen is shown in Figs. 6, 10, and 11, and is described on page 24, lines 15-23, where the claimed groove is identified as paths 70a and 70b in this example.

The groove in the track supports the screen and prevents buckling. This is particularly useful when the screen is moved through an arcuate track, as recited in dependent claim 17, for example. Neither Kormos, August, nor Simson show or suggest receiving a portion of a screen in a groove of a track and moving the screen through the groove, as claimed. Claim 12 and the claims dependent upon it would not, therefore, have been obvious in light of Kormos, August, and Simson. The claims dependent on claim 12 (including claims 14-18, and 20, rejected above), would not, therefore, have been obvious in light of these references, either. The dependent claims include allowable subject matter, as well.

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

3. Independent Claim 22 and the Claims Dependent Upon It

Independent claim 22, which defines a room for use in conducting medical procedures, comprises, in part, a screen, a track, a belt movably disposed within the track, and a cartridge storing the screen. Claim 22 has been amended, in part, to delete reference to an MRI assembly, which is not needed. An MRI assembly is now recited in new claim 59, which is dependent on claim 22. Claim 22 has also been amended to further comprise “hook and loop material along a portion of the screen” and “hook and loop material along at least portion of the belt.” Claim 22 has been further amended to recite that the screen is “removably attachable to the belt by mating the hook and loop material on the screen and the belt.” Claim 22 has been further amended to

recite that “movement of the belt when the screen is removably attached to the belt causes removal of a remaining portion of the screen from the cartridge, and movement of the screen along the track to display an image in the room.” Claim 22 has also been amended to recite that the track and the belt are configured to compress the hook and loop material on the screen against the hook and loop material on the belt to removably attach the remaining portion of the screen to the belt as the belt draws the screen into the track. Claim 26, which is dependent on claim 22, is amended to be consistent with the amendments to claim 22.

Neither Kormos, August, nor Simson show or suggest providing a screen connectable to a belt by hook and loop material, such as Velcro(R), wherein the screen is stored in a cartridge and connects to the belt as the screen is removed from the cartridge, as claimed. While Simson shows rollers 73, 74 around which a scroll is wound and unwound, the scroll is fed directly from one roller to the other - there is no belt to carry the scroll, as claimed, nor is there any need for one.

While the Examiner has asserted that the curtain supporting the picture in U.S. Patent No. 5,681,259, also to August (“August II”), can be considered to be a belt carrying a screen, there is no need for a cartridge, nor any suggestion to store the picture in a cartridge and removably attach the picture to the curtain by hook and loop material as the picture is removed from the cartridge, as claimed.

Amended claim 22 and the claims dependent upon it (including claims 25-36, which were rejected above), would not, therefore have been obvious in light of Kormos, August, Simson, or August II. The dependent claims contain allowable subject matter, as well.

Withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

4. Independent Claim 37 and the Claims Dependent Upon It

Independent claim 37 has been amended to define a method of using a room for a medical imaging procedure. An MRI procedure is now recited in new claim 61, which is dependent on claim 37. Claim 37 has also been amended to require, in part, “removably attaching a portion of a screen to a belt the screen comprising a plurality of scenes, each scene comprising at least one image; moving the belt to move the screen across a room to display a selected one of the scenes; in the room; and removably attaching remaining portions of the screen to the belt as the belt moves the screen across the room.”

As discussed above with respect to amended claim 22, neither Kormos, August, or Simson teach or suggest providing a screen removably attachable to a belt as a belt moves the screen. Amended claim 37 and the claims dependent upon it (including claims 38-47, and 49, rejected above) are, therefore, allowable over the Kormos, August, and Simson. The dependent claims include allowable subject matter, as well.

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

C. Rejections over Kormos in view of August ‘188 and U.S. Patent No. 5,917,395 (“Overweg”)

Claims 8, 48, and 53 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kormos in view of August ‘188 and Overweg. Overweg shows an MRI system with a ceiling mounted illumination.

Claim 8 is dependent on claim 1. Claim 48 is dependent on claim 37. Claim 53 is dependent on claim 22. Since claims 1, 22, and 37 are allowable, as discussed above, claims 8, 48, and 53 should also be allowable.

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

D. Rejections over Kormos in view of August '188 and U.S. Patent No. 4,173,087
("Saylor")

Claims 13 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kormos in view of August '188 and Saylor. Claims 13 and 21 are dependent on claim 12, which is allowable, as discussed above. Claims 13 and 21 should, therefore, be allowable, as well. Claims 13 and 21 contain allowable subject matter, as well.

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

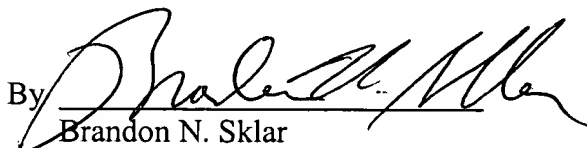
Allowance of the application in light of these Amendments and Remarks is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: March 10, 2008

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